

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8174

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E.O.: 11652 N/A

TAGS: ENRG, GW, OCON

SUBJECT: SPEAKING INVITATION FOR DR. SCHLESINGER

1. VON HARNIER, REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ECONOMIC COUNCIL OF THE CDU (WIRTSCHAFTSRAT DER CDU), HAS ASKED THE EMBASSY TO CONVEY ITS INVITATION TO DR. SCHLESINGER TO BE ITS KEY SPEAKER AT THE OPENING OF ITS LARGE BIENNIAL CONFERENCE IN OCTOBER, 1977.

2. THE ECONOMIC COUNCIL, UNIQUE AMONG MAJOR NATIONAL BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC ASSOCIATIONS IN ITS SPECIFIC PARTISAN CONNECTION WITH THE CDU, HAS A MEMBERSHIP OF MORE THAN 5,000 BUSINESSMEN AND INDUSTRIALISTS OF LARGE, MIDDLE-SIZED, AND SMALL COMPANIES AND FIRMS IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND WEST BERLIN. PAST BIENNIAL CONFERENCES HAVE ATTRACTED 1,200 TO 1,500 MEMBERS AND GUESTS, AND 100 TO 150 JOURNALISTS. OUTSTANDING NON-GERMAN PERSONALITIES WHO HAVE ADDRESSED BIENNIAL CONFERENCES IN THE PAST INCLUDE JEAN MONNET, PIERRE WERNER (FORMER FINANCE MINISTER OF LUXEMBOURG), DR. HARRY G. JOHNSON AND DR. HENRY C. WALLICH. "ACCEPTANCES IN PRINCIPLE", CONTINGENT UPON ACTUAL CONFERENCE DATES, HAVE

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ALREADY BEEN RECEIVED FOR THIS YEAR'S CONFERENCE FROM FRENCH PREMIER BARRE AND PROFESSOR MILTON FRIEDMAN.

3. SO HIGHLY DOES THE COUNCIL VALUE DR. SCHLESINGER, THAT IT IS PREPARED TO SET THE CONFERENCE DATES SOLELY ON THE BASIS OF HIS AVAILABILITY AS

PRINCIPAL GUEST SPEAKER. THE PREFERRED DATES FOR THE OPENING EVENT, WHICH DR. SCHLESINGER WOULD ADDRESS, ARE THE EVENINGS OF OCTOBER 6 OR OCTOBER 13, ALTHOUGH OCTOBER 20 AND 27 ALSO ARE POSSIBILITIES. NOTING THAT THE NEXT MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AUTHORITY HAS NOW BEEN POSTPONED UNTIL EARLY AUTUMN (AND MOST LIKELY LATE SEPTEMBER OR EARLY OCTOBER), EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT DR. SCHLESINGER MIGHT FIND IT POSSIBLE TO COMBINE THE ECONOMIC COUNCIL SPEECH WITH THE TRIP TO THE IEA MINISTERIAL.

4. BECAUSE THE COUNCIL IS OFFERING NOT ONLY THIS PRESTIGIOUS SPEAKING POSITION, BUT ALSO THE CHOICE OF DATES, TO DR. SCHLESINGER, A FIRM POSITIVE OR NEGATIVE RESPONSE MUST BE RECEIVED HERE BY OPENING OF BUSINESS MAY 20 (COB MAY 19, WASHINGTON TIME). A RESPONSE VIA THIS CHANNEL IS REQUESTED.

5. COMMENT. THE EMBASSY IS AWARE THAT SEVERAL MAJOR GERMAN ORGANIZATIONS HAVE (MOST OF THEM DIRECTLY) INVITED DR. SCHLESINGER TO GIVE MAJOR ADDRESSES IN THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC DURING THE REMAINING MONTHS OF 1977. EMBASSY AGREES THAT A MAJOR ADDRESS BY DR. SCHLESINGER ON U.S. ENERGY POLICY IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT WOULD BE HIGHLY BENEFICIAL. THE ECONOMIC COUNCIL
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OF THE CDU BIENNIAL MEETING WOULD AFFORD AN EXCELLENT AUDIENCE AND OPTIMAL MASS MEDIA COVERAGE.

6. THROUGH IEA BOARD CHAIRMAN ROHWEDDER AND OTHER CONTACTS WITH FRG OFFICIALS, THE USG ALREADY HAS ACCESS TO GERMAN OPINION-MAKERS ON ENERGY POLICY FROM THE SPD SIDE. THIS INVITATION OFFERS ACCESS ON THE CDU/CSU SIDE, WHICH MORE CLOSELY REPRESENTS THE VIEWS OF GERMAN BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY.

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